

# KNOW YOUR ORGANIC FOOD & ORGANIC CERTIFICATION

## What is Organic Farming?

The word organic farming means growing/rearing plants or animals without the use of synthetic inputs such as fertilizers, hormones, allopathic medicines and pesticides.

Organic cultivation of crops and organic rearing of livestock is not only safe and gives healthy food but is also ecologically sustainable, ensuring welfare of all living beings.

## Promotion of Organic Farming by Govt. of India

In order to harness the advantages of organic farming and to build up the soil health and ensuring quality food free from pesticide residue, Government of India has been promoting organic farming under different schemes namely Mission Organic Value Chain Development North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) and Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Network Project on Organic Farming under ICAR, Namami Gange - National Mission for Clean Ganga and National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF).

## What is Organic Food?

Organic food means any form of food or its raw material (such as grains, oils, spices etc) produced in a manner close to nature without using any synthetic manmade inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides, hormones, antibiotics etc. Organic farming also prohibits the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

## Why Organic Food?

As organic food is grown, produced and processed through natural inputs and natural processes, it is absolutely free from chemical residues, have balance of all macro and micro nutrients and is considered safe and healthy for animals and human beings.

Organic food is also known to be the best source of immunity and systemic resistance against diseases and deficiencies.



**Jaivik Bharat**

The unified logo is an identity mark to distinguish organic products from non-organic ones, supported with tagline "Jaivik Bharat" at the bottom, for easy identification of Organic Food from India. The logo communicates adherence to the NSOP

## How do I identify organic food in the market?

The only way to identify the organic food in market is to verify its certification and quality mark in the form of a logo, considering the similar appearance of organic produce vs conventional.

As per the requirement of Food Safety and Standards (Organic Foods) Regulations, 2017, all organic food must carry a JAIVK BHARAT logo along with its certification logo.

## What is Certification?

Organic certification is a process certification involving a set of production standards for growing, storage, processing, packaging and shipping that include:

- Avoidance of synthetic chemical inputs (e.g. fertilizer, pesticides, hormones, antibiotics, food additives, etc) and genetically modified organisms;
- Keeping detailed written production and sales records (audit trail);
- Maintaining strict physical separation of organic products from non-certified products;
- Undergoing periodic on-site inspections.

## Purpose of certification

Certification is essentially aimed at regulating production/processing as per National Standards for Organic Production (NSOP) and facilitating the sale of original and quality organic products to consumers.

## Certification systems

India has two organic certification systems in place. Although both the systems are based upon common national standards but adopt different approach for verification and documentation.

- a. National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) for export and
- b. Participatory Guarantee System for India (PGS-India) for domestic and local markets.

## NPOP certification

NPOP certification is a kind of third party certification, in which, the farm or the processing of the agriculture produce is certified in accordance with national or international organic standards by an accredited organic certification agency. NPOP certification is facilitated by Agriculture Processed Food and Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce and Industries, Govt. of India.



This logo is a certification for organically farmed products manufactured in India. The certification mark certifies that the food product conforms to the NSOP

### **Participatory Guarantee System for India (PGS-India)**

Participatory Guarantee Systems are locally focused quality assurance systems, built on a foundation of trust, social networks and knowledge exchange. In the case of organic agriculture, PGS is a process in which people in similar situations (in this case producers) assess, inspect and verify the production practices of each other and collectively declare the entire holding of the group as organic. PGS-India is facilitated by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India through National Centre of Organic Farming (NCOF) as its Secretariat.



This logo refers to products obtained from the agriculture fields which are completely converted into organic. The certification mark certifies that the organic food product conforms to the NSOP



This logo refers to products obtained from the agriculture fields under process of conversion. The certification mark certifies that the food product conforms to the NSOP

A total of 6.12 lakh hectares land and 9.32 lakh farmers covered under PGS-India certification and 9.12 lakh hectares land and around 15 lakh farmers covered under NPOP certification.

## Labelling of Organic logos on organic products



### Safe Food

(Produce obtained from under conversions fields)



Jaivik Bharat



PGS-INDIA ORGANIC

### Organic

(Produce obtained from fully organic fields)

or



Jaivik Bharat



### Organic

(Produce obtained from fully organic fields)

## About NCOF

National Centre of Organic Farming (NCOF) with its nine (09) regional centres is a nodal organization for promotion of organic farming under National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) with following major mandates

- Promotion of organic farming in the country through technical capacity building of all stakeholders including human resource development.
- Technology dissemination & strain supply.
- Statutory quality control of biofertilizers and organic fertilizers under the Fertilizer Control Order (FCO, 1985).
- Promotion of low cost participatory system of organic certification.
- Awareness and publicity through print and electronic media.



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